

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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ACDA-05 SAM-01 IO-10 /071 W
----- 074669

P R 261220Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1549

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1253

E.O. 11652; NA

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN REACTION TO US ANNOUNCEMENT OF LIFTING OF
EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO SOUTH ASIA

1. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) MADE SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT CARRIED ON RADIO KABUL EVENING FEBRUARY 24 THAT AMERICAN CHARGE' MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH FEBRUARY 23 AND PRESENTED STATEMENT REGARDING LIFTING US ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH ASIA, THAT STATEMENT WAS UNDER SERIOUS STUDY BY GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) AND THAT LATER ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOA POSITPION WOULD BE MADE.

2. PROMISED ANNOUNCEMENT WAS BROADCAST FEBNUARY 25 AND CARRIED IN VERNACULAR PRESS FEBRUARY 26. OFFICIAL ENGLISH VERSION OF STATEMENT NOT YET AVAILABLE. SUBSTANCE OF EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF PASHTU RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AND 3RD PARAGRAPH DARI TEXT CARRIED IN "JOMHURIYAT" IS AS FOLLOWS:
QTE US GOVERNMENT'S DECISION HAS CAUSED ANXIETY AND UNEAS-
INESS AMONG AFGHAN PEOPLE AND GOA AND IS CONTRAY TO STATED
US GOALS OF PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY IN REGION. GOA CANNOT
ACCEPT REASONING THAT RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLY WILL NOT
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AFFECT BALANCE OF POWER AND LEAD TO ARMS RACE. LIFTING OF

EMBARGO, ESPECIALLY AT TIME WHEN PAK MILITARY ARE ACTING AGAINST THE PUSHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLES HAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED AFGHAN, PUSHTUN, AND BALUCH PEOPLES AS WELL AS GOA. SURPRISING THAT USG, WHICH HAS ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY IN WORLD, WOULD ACT CONTRARY TO ITS WORDS. AS ALWAYS STATED BY GOA, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN ACHIEVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS ONLY IF THERE WERE PEACE: RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLY WILL CAUSE MISUSE AND DIVERSION OF VALUABLE RESOURCES FROM THESE GOALS. US DECISION WILL RESULT IN CREATION OF DANGEROUS ATMOSPHERE. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT GOA PUBLIC STATEMENT IS RELATIVELY TAME WHEN PUT IN CONTEXT OF DETERIORATION OF ALREADY FRACTIOUS RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN FOLLOWING SHERPAO ASSASSINATION, BANNING OF NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY AND ACCOMPANYING VERBAL POLLUTION OF RADIO WAVES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. GOA STATEMENT IS NOT SO TAME HOWEVER THAT IT COULD BE TAKEN BY AFGHAN PUBLIC AS RETREAT FROM BASIC GOA POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR "PUSHTUN AND BALUCH BROTHERS". IF SUBJECT COMES UP IN CONVERSATION WE WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND ALONG LINES PROVIDED IN DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

FROM KATHMANDU WE HAVE HEARD THAT REACTION OF MOHAMMAD NAIM (PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR) WHO WAS ATTENDING CORONATION, WAS LOW KEY AND NOT PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE. HE REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD VIEW THE ARMS POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF THE STATE OF ITS DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. IF THOSE RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD DETERIORATE, OBVIOUSLY THE AFGHANS WOULD BE CONCERNED AT ANY ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN; OTHERWISE, THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY FROM THE AFGHAN POINT OF VIEW.
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